



Long Beach Police Department

Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit . 100 Long Beach Blvd . Long Beach, CA 90802

Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police

John Bretza
Deputy Chief of Police
Patrol Bureau

Ted Hulsey
Deputy Chief of Police
Investigations Bureau

Tim Jackman
Deputy Chief of Police
Support Bureau

Braden Phillips
Manager
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Kevin Coy
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

Back to School Night
Youth Mentoring Opportunities

**Wednesday,
September 17, 2003
7:00 p.m.**

Long Beach Water Department
1800 East Wardlow Road

The theme of this month's meeting is "Back-To-School," and will showcase several Youth Mentoring Opportunities offered by the Police Department, as well as other community organizations. We strongly encourage parents to bring their school-age children, so that they can learn more about these valuable programs and how they can benefit from them.

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Upcoming Events/Volunteer Opportunities

- **Long Beach City Council I-710 Freeway Oversight Committee**
September 10, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Avenue
You are invited to help develop solutions for improving the 710 freeway that work for the traveling public, as well as the residents and businesses that are impacted. Call (562) 570-6895 for more information.
- **"Let's Talk " Dialog Session, Topic: Youth Violence**
September 10, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
For more information, or to reserve a space, call Magna Gonzalez at (562) 598-4135.
- **"Shorefest" Event**
October 3-5, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
See article, page 3.
- **Long Beach International City Bank Marathon**
October 12, Sunday, events begin at 6:30 a.m.
For more information see the official website, www.runlongbeach.com, or call the marathon office at (562) 728-8829.

NEW HELICOPTERS FOR LBPD'S AIR SUPPORT



Last December, two new EC130 helicopters were added to the Long Beach Police Department's arsenal against crime. Replacing the ten year old MD500's that were about to reach their maximum air-frame time, the pair of EC130s cost roughly five million dollars, and were purchased using asset forfeiture funds.

The EC130s come equipped with state of the art technology, including a Global Positioning System, infrared cameras that can lock onto a moving object, and a pair of Police radios that are capable of communication far beyond our city limits. The new helicopters are three times larger than the previous models, with a cabin that seats up to seven people, air conditioning, more power, and more crime-fighting tools.

An unprecedented milestone was reached in July when one of the EC130s accrued over 1,000 flight hours in airborne support to ground police operations. Proving it's reliability, the helicopter experienced zero downtime for failures during this high level of use. And demonstrating fuel-efficiency, the EC130 also burns less fuel than the 50 gallons per hour which was originally estimated by the manufacturer. Depending on the mission of the aircraft, the current fuel burn is between 28 and 40 gallons per hour.

The Police Department's emphasis on overall safety was a key factor in the selection of the EC130s, as was it's quiet technology. The design of

the tail rotor (for stability while turning), and an exhaust system which exits at the top of the chopper help to reduce the noise emitted from the aircraft. The main rotor system moves in a clockwise direction, reducing noise by actually throwing it away from the ground. Officers usually fly at about 500 feet during the day to avoid air traffic from the airport, but cruise at 1,000 feet at night, which also keeps noise levels down.

While the noise may increase when the aircraft is flying low or in pursuit, the Air Support Division is one of our most powerful allies against crime and terrorism.

Air Support runs roughly fifteen to twenty-five calls a day, and be called by any officers on the ground. The EC130s are swift, with a top speed of 180 miles per hour, enabling it to cover several city blocks in seconds, and able to get from one end of the city to the other in less than five minutes. The same distance in a patrol car can take up to twenty five minutes.

They are able to search flood channels and rooftops, spot fleeting suspects in cars and on foot, and often provide crucial tactical information to officers before they arrive on the scene.

The new EC130 helicopters enable the department to put the latest technology to use in the fight against crime. With our new "eye in the sky," the criminals can run, but they can't hide!

SHOREFEST

Long Beach will host the first ShoreFest event October 3-5, 2003. ShoreFest is a privately sponsored event that is free to the public, and is expected to draw up to 500,000 people to our city. ShoreFest will consist of six concurrent "Fest"ivals - AirFest, HarborFest, KidsFest, MusicFest, TasteFest, and WaterFest.

With a crowd larger than the current city population entering our city, several areas will be impacted more than others. The areas showcased in the attraction are mainly the airport, the beach, Belmont Pier, and the downtown harbor area. Several public agencies are working together to handle such issues as noise and traffic. By being informed on this large-scale event you can better prepare for any inconveniences you may experience during this event.

ShoreFest will showcase the unique assets that our city is famous for - the beautiful coastline, the Queen Mary, Rainbow Harbor, the many historical buildings and landmarks, and the various tourist attractions throughout the city.

Visitors will get a glimpse of why so many people choose to live, work and play in this city. Our multi-cultural population, the diversity in dining, art, and entertainment, and the uniqueness of the individual neighborhoods all lend to the charm that few cities this large can offer.

The event will also attract media attention, and generate millions of dollars to city businesses. Many visitors will undoubtedly return for future visits, thus strengthening our tourism, which is a driving force to the city's economy.

Why not come down and check it out? This is the largest event that the city has ever hosted, and it will have something to offer for everyone!

For more information, or to check on volunteer opportunities, please refer to the website, www.shorefest.us, or call Ann Forella, at (562)432-8325, extension 223.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

Every year the month of October is designated as National Crime Prevention Month. The theme of this year's campaign is "Keeping Youth Crime Free." Here are some ideas to support National Crime Prevention Month this year:

- **Attend September's Community Crime Prevention Meeting.** This month's meeting focuses on youth mentoring programs. Encourage parents and children that you know to attend, as well.
- **Consider volunteering in a youth mentoring program.** Many of these programs are seeking volunteers. By donating your time, you can make a difference in a young person's life.
- **Host a neighborhood block party.** This is a great way for all neighbors, young and old, to get acquainted and to get involved in bettering their neighborhood.
- **Reorganize your Neighborhood Watch group.** If you haven't had a formal meeting in over a year, now is a good time. Contact PSA Lisa Massacani at 570-7229 to schedule a meeting and get updated on recent crime trends, and current crime prevention techniques.
- **Include young adults in your neighborhood meetings and events.** Perhaps host a meeting with the topic of "Child Safety" or "Gang Prevention."
- **Get educated on how to identify and prevent youth crime.** This involves close communication with your child or the youth that you mentor. Being a positive role model for a young person is one of the best ways to help them avoid negative behavior and problem situations.

For more information, or to schedule a program, please call Community Relations, at (562) 570-7215.

Long Beach Police Department
Community Relations Division
100 Long Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS ALERT

LAUNDRY ROOM BURGLARIES

Submitted by Lieutenant Steve Ditmars, East Patrol Division

Recently in the East Division, there have been a number of burglaries at small apartment complex laundry rooms and laundromat businesses. This series of burglaries has been occurring since July, and the targeted area spans from Junipero Avenue to Ximeno Avenue, and from 4th Street to 15th Street.

The suspects have been described as a small group (two to five) of male blacks, in their teens, sometimes on bicycles. They are known to ride in the alleys of high density housing areas until they find a potential target location, make entry into the laundry room, and commit the theft while others serve as lookouts. The suspects then knock over washing machines and dryers, damage the coin boxes, and remove the money.

The Long Beach Police Department is asking for your assistance in apprehending these criminals, and reminding all citizens to take precautionary measures to prevent future crimes from occurring.

Please call 9-1-1 (or 435-6711 from cell phones) to report any criminal activity. By calling to report anyone loitering or acting suspicious, you may even prevent a crime from occurring. Please be prepared to give the best possible physical description of the subject, including method and direction of travel.

The best solution to any crime is prevention, and we remind citizens to make security a priority, at their laundry facilities, their homes, and place of business. Keep all security gates closed and locked. Install and maintain effective lighting, and keep shrubbery properly trimmed - criminals prefer to work where they are concealed. Put a secure lock on your laundry room, and keep it locked when it is not in use. Secure the washer or dryer to the wall using a cable to deter an attempt to tip the appliance over, and empty the coin boxes on a regular basis to minimize losses. For a free home or business security inspection, please contact the Community Relations Division at (562) 570-7215.

Anyone who may have any questions or leads as to the suspects in these burglaries is asked to contact the Burglary Detail at (562)570-7351.